

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07846 290856Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR KS US
SUBJ: CONVERSATION BETWEEN ROK FONMIN AND SECSTATE KISSINGER

REF: STATE 240579

1. ROK PRESS MORNING SEPTEMBER 27 HEADLINED ACCOUNTS OF SEC-
STATE'S SEPTEMBER 26 MEETING WITH ROK FONMIN. AFTERNOON
PAPERS GAVE FRONTPAGE, AND IN SOME CASES HEADLINE, COVERAGE.
ARTICLES SAID DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON POSSIBLE DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN
U.S. AND NORTH KOREA (WITH ROK FONMIN MAKING IT CLEAR U.S.
WILL REJECT DIRECT, UNILATERAL CONTACT), AND FLEXIBLE APPROACH
TO SOLUTION OF KOREAN ISSUE.

2. INDEPENDENT, CONSERVATIVE CHOSON ILBO QUOTES FONMIN PAK AS
SAYING "SECRETARY KISSINGER MADE IT CLEAR IT IS UNTHINKABLE
THAT U.S. WILL SEEK DIRECT, UNILATERAL CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREAN
REGIME FOR SETTLEMENT OF KOREAN QUESTION. TIMED WITH RECENT WITH-
DRAWAL OF COMMUNIST-PROPOSED RESOLUTION, IN SUCH MATTERS AS
CONVOCAION OF FOUR-WAY CONFERENCE, UN LOBBY SPECULATION RE-
GARDING FEASIBILITY OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND NK
REGIME AND POSSIBLE CHANGE IN NK'S POLICY IS BASED ON UNFOUNDED
RUMORS."

3. SAME ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES FONMIN AS SAYING "BASIC ROK POSI-
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TION FOR SETTLEMENT OF KOREAN QUESTION IS RELAXATION OF TENSION

AND MAINTENANCE OF PEACE. TO THIS END, WE ARE WORKING ON SOLUTION TO KOREAN ISSUE WITH FLEXIBILITY, NOT LIMITED TO PARTICULAR FORMULAS SUCH AS FOUR-WAY CONFERENCE PROPOSED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER OR RESUMPTION OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE."

4. ARTICLES ALSO SAY PAK EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ACTION TAKEN BY U.S. AT TIME OF AUGUST 18 INCIDENT AS EVIDENCE OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO KOREAN DEFENSE. REPORTS ALSO SAY BOTH MEN WERE PLEASED THAT KOREAN QUESTION WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED AT 31ST UNGA.

5. COMMENT: PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN TO U.S. REJECTION OF DIRECT, UNILATERAL U.S.-NK CONTACT SHOULD LAY TO REST ROK CONCERN ON THIS SCORE WHICH APPEARS EACH TIME THIS SUBJECT IS RAISED. STERN

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Message Attributes

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